



18 Re-Socialization of the Prisoner Between Psychological Support and Work: The Italian Experience

*Michele Vaira, JD**, *V. le I Maggio 27, Foggia 71122, ITALY*; *Laura Muscatello, MD**, *Via L Spallanzani 9 Albinea, Reggio Emilia, ITALY*; and *Tania Rizzo, BS**, *Studio Legale Rizzo, Viale Michele De Pietro 17, Lecce 73100, ITALY*

After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand one of the most important aspects of detention: the possibility for detainees to follow a societal reintegration and rehabilitation program.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by contributing to the debate within the legal academic community as to the importance of rehabilitation and working activities in prison, which not only are inmates' rights, but may help them resettle in society and inspire their future observance of the law and the rules of communal life.

Over the past decades, penitentiary psychology has specialized to meet the demands of society to understand and, if possible, prevent deviant behavior; the intervention of the psychologist in prison is therefore driven by the constitutional order that rehabilitation is to enable attitudes, intentions, and behavioral choices of re-socialization and reintegration of the offender and to reduce the risk of recurrence.

In this modern and more constitutionally psychological evaluation, the prisoner's right to work, and rights as a form of alternative measures to detention is also an instrument of knowledge of the concrete possibility of social and economic fulfillment. In that last regard, art. 20 of the Italian Penitentiary Code states clearly that "the organization and methods of prison work must reflect those of employment in free society in order to make the subjects acquire professional training adapted to the normal working conditions to facilitate social reintegration."

We proceed to reach the reaffirmation of prisoners as citizens who can, in parallel with pursuing a path of socio-cultural reconstruction, also be an active part in the global growth of society. The sentence should, therefore, be accompanied by prison treatment that guides energies constructively and by psychological work that facilitates critical review and knowledge about and repair of the damage caused.

In Italy, the activities of public bodies are flanked by many private associations, which in recent years have produced a number of projects regarding work in institutions of confinement. Reeducation is intended as a psychological journey deepening one's own life and re-socialization is the ability to renew one's self to return to being a positive and proactive element in and for civil society. In this psychological journey, the "work" has taken a role of great importance and it has been a source of developmental and cultural growth for Italy.

Through the analysis of official statistical studies, this study indicates that conducting work activities inside prisons significantly reduces the risk of recidivism of prisoners, once released from prison. The socio-psychological assistance of prisoners helps to reduce the percentage of prisoners who, when placed back into society, commit new crimes. Based on this statistical analysis, the Italian government has revolutionized the approach to its execution of sentences.

Reeducation, Psychological Support, Inmates Work